

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /075 W
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R 060749Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2053

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UR, UV, ML

SUBJ: VOLTAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS IN MALI

REF: BAMAKO 2622

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KABORE AUGUST 2, HE REFERRED TO RECENT VISIT OF SOVIET FICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO MALI AND STATED THAT GOUV WAS WONDERING WHAT SOVIETS WERE UP TO. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT SOVIETS INTENDED TO UPGRADE A NUMBER OF AIRFIELDS IN MALI AND WHILE THIS WAS PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE SOVIET MOVES ELSEWHERE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, THESE AIRFIELDS COULD ALSO BE USED BY MALI AGAINST UPPER VOLTA.

2. AT DINNER I GAVE IN HIS HONOR AUGUST 3, FINANCE MINISTER LEONARD KALMOGO TOOK ME ASIDE AND REFERRED ALSO TO VICE MINISTER SOKOLOV'S VISIT TO MALI. HE SAID GOUVE WAS DEEPLY WORRIED THAT SOVIETS INTENDED TO USE GUINEA AND MALI TO SUBVERT REMAINING PRO-WESTERN REGIMES IN WEST AFRICA. HE ASKED WHETHER
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SUG COULD PROVIDE GOUV WITH INFORMATION ON SOVIET PRESENCE

IN MALI, NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS AND MILITARY ADVISERS AND GENERAL TREND OF SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN MALI. KALMOGO HINTED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AND THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT CONVOKE ME IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. HE ADDED THAT LAMIZANA HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT SOKOLOV'S VISIT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR TIKUNOV WHO HAD DISMISSED MATTER AS MERE "JUNKET" BY SOKOLOV.

3. I TOLD KALMOGO THAT USG'S PRIMARY INTEREST IN MALI WAS OF A HUMANITARIAN NATURE, AND THAT I DID NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT USG KEPT ITSELF INFORMED ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN MALI. I ADDED THAT I WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: MOST OF INFORMATION REQUESTED BY KALMOGO IS AVAILABLE IN EMBASSY'S COPY OF LATEST INTELLIGENCE HANDBOOK BUT IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT RELEASEABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE PASSED ON TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA IN THE EVENT HE CALLS ME IN TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.
GRAHAM

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